

CANADA

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THE TREATMENT OF WOUNDS AND TUBERCULOUS JOINTS—ACUTE DILATATION OF THE HEART.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

VIENNA, Dec. 15, 1882.

The great pressing question of the hour in the surgical world here, as elsewhere, appears to be the treatment of wounds. It is not whether this treatment should be conducted antiseptically or not, but rather what kind of antiseptic should be used. Here, at any rate, there is no doubt of the value of antiseptic surgery. All are agreed that the grand principles laid down by Lister are sound. The method of carrying out these principles will change, but the foundation on which they are laid will stand secure. Not until we have discovered a better antiseptic than any we have at present, shall we be in a position to say whether the spray can be dispensed with or not. There certainly is no trustworthy evidence as yet that we can dispense with it in operations where the presence or absence of *septicity* means the death or recovery of the patient.

During the last year, irrigation has been used in Billroth's and Albert's wards in place of the spray. The method of carrying it out does appear to be quite as troublesome as the spray. Carbolic acid, 1 to 30, is the strength of the solution always employed. The parts to be operated on are first thoroughly washed with a solution of the above strength, and are kept constantly irrigated up to the time of using the knife. If it is an